

OPINION 1905

S.D. Kaicher (1973–1992), *Card Catalogue of World-Wide Shells*: not suppressed for nomenclatural purposes

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; S.D. Kaicher; *Card Catalogue of World-Wide Shells* (1973–1992); Mollusca; Gastropoda; Prosobranchia.

Ruling

- (1) The work by S.D. Kaicher (1973–1992) entitled *Card Catalogue of World-Wide Shells* is not suppressed for nomenclatural purposes.
- (2) The above work is hereby placed on the Official List of Works Approved as Available for Zoological Nomenclature.

History of Case 2964

An application for the suppression for nomenclatural purposes of the work by S.D. Kaicher (1973–1992) entitled *Card Catalogue of World-Wide Shells* was received from Dr Alan R. Kabat (*National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, U.S.A.*) on 26 January 1995. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 53: 96–98 (June 1996). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Comments in support from Dr Y. Finet (*Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève, Switzerland*), Dr P. Bouchet (*Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France*), Dr A.G. Beu (*Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, Lower Hutt, New Zealand*), Dr A.J. Kohn (*University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.*) and Dr T. Schiøtte (*Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark*) were published in BZN 53: 273, 275–277 (December 1996). A further comment in support from Dr Anders Warén (*Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, Sweden*) was published in BZN 54: 183–184 (September 1997).

A comment in opposition from Drs M.G. Harasewych & R.E. Petit (*National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, U.S.A.*) was published in BZN 53: 273–275 (December 1996). Further opposing comments from Dr Emily H. Vokes (*Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.*), Dr William G. Lyons (*Florida Marine Research Institute, St Petersburg, Florida, U.S.A.*) and Dr José H. Leal (*The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, Sanibel Island, Florida, U.S.A.*) were published in BZN 54: 39–44 (March 1997).

A reply by the author of the application to the opposing comments was published in BZN 54: 44–46 (March 1997).

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 1998 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 53: 98. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 1998 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 11: Bouchet, Brothers, Kabata, Kerzhner, Kraus, Mahnert, Mawatari, Papp, Patterson, Schuster, Song

Negative votes — 12: Bock, Cocks, Dupuis, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Lehtinen, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Savage and Štys.

Cogger abstained.

No vote was received from Macpherson.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Voting for, Brothers commented: 'In voting in favour of the application I do have reservations, and my main motivation is the impression that Kaicher's (1973-1992) work was never intended to be used for revisionary nomenclatural purposes'. Voting against, Bock commented: 'In his application Kabat has not demonstrated any serious nomenclatural problems'. Cocks commented: 'This is a grey area. Following consultation with colleagues working on molluscs in The Natural History Museum, London, there seems to be no very substantial case for suppressing the publication (for such it undoubtedly is) for nomenclatural purposes'. Dupuis commented: 'In spite of Kabat's emphasis (BZN 54: 44) upon a 'suppression' for nomenclatural purposes only, I still think that such actions depreciate all other aspects of even the best of classical works. I am convinced by Lyon's comment (BZN 54: 40)'. Eschmeyer commented: 'Kaicher should not have listed 'holotypes' when it was known that Dall, for example, often had multiple specimens of his new species. I agree with Harasewych & Petit (BZN 53: 275) that 'lectotype designations ... should either be allowed to stand, or be evaluated in the course of systematic revisions on a taxon by taxon basis''. Heppell commented: 'Although I was at first surprised that this case was brought to the Commission (as there is no doubt that the work in dispute is published in terms of the Code), the various comments for and against suppression show that an authoritative judgment on the status of the contained nomenclatural acts is necessary. I am familiar with the *Card Catalogue* (which from publication of the first issue has been formally catalogued by the library of the National Museums of Scotland) and have found it invaluable for curatorial purposes; its several shortcomings are no more than in many works by professional malacologists (in my view its worst feature is the lack of an index) and, as has been demonstrated, are often the result of unquestioned acceptance of the data supplied with the museum specimens illustrated. On balance I agree with those who have judged the applicant's case to be overstated. I therefore vote against the application'. Lehtinen commented: 'Kaicher's extensive publication, which several malacologists agree is useful in taxonomic work, has caused some confusion partly because some museum labels denoting lectotypes were not published by those responsible for the labelling and she did not check such information. I know a large number of taxonomic papers where the confusion is much greater but no one has even suggested their rejection for nomenclatural purposes'. In abstaining, Cogger commented: 'This application and the responses to it have included many emotionally charged statements in which nomenclatural issues have been overlooked. One of the arguments which is implicit in several comments is that because Kaicher was only perpetuating the practice widely adopted by other workers, including professional malacologists, her work should not be singled out for suppression. While I sympathise with the motives behind this view, I reject the nomenclatural arguments. It is clearly desirable that her unintended and/or erroneous lectotype designations be suppressed. The nature and purpose of the publication seems to me to have no relevance to the case. Even some supporters of the application concede that the work is an important contribution to systematic malacology and that the illustrations of many type specimens are correct, i.e. that the work has been valuable to nomenclaturists. If this is so, blanket

suppression of the entire work for nomenclatural purposes is inappropriate. With hindsight I would have preferred the application to have simply sought the setting aside in the Kaicher work of all type designations, whether explicit, or implicit under the Code. But this solution was not proposed by the applicant or any of the many commentators and so is not an option in the vote'.

Since there was a majority against the suppression for nomenclatural purposes of the work *Card Catalogue of World-Wide Shells* (S.D. Kaicher, 1973–1992), this publication is placed on the Official List as an available work.

Original reference

The following is the original reference to the work placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Kaicher, S.D. 1973–1992. *Card Catalogue of World-Wide Shells*. Pack 1 (cards 1–99) through Pack 60 (cards 6110–6215). Author, St Petersburg, Florida.